

Autumn SWEO Updates: August - November 2021

Operations

- New Sr. Operations Specialist, Mollie Mangerich, will begin Nov. 22nd
 - 26 years of experience in Solid Waste industry
 - Previous SWAC experience as both member and facilitator

Green Business

- New certified business – Field + Floral, <https://www.fieldnfloral.com/>
- The following businesses recertified in 2021:
 - Columbia Machine Inc.
 - Vance Family Soy Candles
 - Frito-Lay, Vancouver
 - Aspen Pest Control
 - Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
 - Waste Connections – Eastridge
 - WSU - Vancouver
 - Central Transfer Station
 - Choice Wellness Center
 - Washougal Transfer Station
 - Hopworks Urban Brewery
 - DocuDriven
- Virtual Green Business Morning Blend was held on Sept. 23
 - Topic: Mixed Recycling
 - Registered attendees: 31
- Virtual Green Business Morning Blend will be held on Oct. 29
 - Topic: Non-curbside Recyclables
 - Registered attendees: 29

Green Neighbors

- Single-family Recycling Outreach
 - Cart tagging quarterly report for July-September (see attached)
 - Created a residual study video to inform the public about what we do to reduce contamination in our recycling stream: <https://youtu.be/lwdzxtje9xk>
- Multifamily Recycling Outreach
 - In the planning stages of piloting a new recycling dumpster lid to help decrease contamination at two apartment complexes.
- Recycled Arts Festival
 - Virtual event went live August 7. A selection of 13 artists are featured in a story map along with videos, photos and written descriptions of their artwork.
<https://recycledartsfestival.com/studio-tours/meet-the-artist>
 - Waste Connections hosts a Tossed and Found exhibit at the festival and we created a video about the process to set it up: <https://youtu.be/uJA9cBT5PSo>
 - Trash to Treasure Artist in Residence pilot program will exhibit Bill Leigh's sculptures made from 75% of materials pulled from our transfer stations. January 5-29, Art At The Cave, 108 East Evergreen Boulevard, Vancouver
- Use Food Well – Sharing Food Across Clark County (food waste prevention online event)
 - Thursday, November 4, 6-7 pm
 - Registration - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkce6gqTwsHtdBw4lTdVNU1YwrMENIEi2y>

- Description: More than one million tons of food waste is generated annually in Washington, with about 35% being edible food going into landfills. Food waste is one of the greatest challenges of our time significantly impacting our environment, community and economy. Join Clark County Green Neighbors to hear speakers from Clark County Food Bank and Urban Abundance. We'll learn about how they get food into the hands that need it and subsequently prevent good food from being wasted.

Green Schools

- Transitioned our Google Drive database to Smartsheet
 - Created a new inventory tracking system, school visit report spreadsheets, and an index of school administrators and Green Team leaders
- Created new labels to place on the bins and containers we provide to schools
 - This will help schools know that they can return bins to us when not needed anymore
- Partnered with the School Health and Safety team to create a [School Food Service Guidance sheet](#)
 - Helps alert administrators and cafeteria staff that they can use sort tables, share tables, milk dispensers, etc. according to COVID guidelines from the CDC
- Hosted our Fall Educator Training with EarthGen on Thursday, October 7th
 - 25 educators attended
- Hired a new AmeriCorps Member, Trudi
- Will Hornyak, the Green Schools storyteller, has done some virtual assemblies and has more scheduled
- Working with the Statewide School Durables workgroup (Zero Waste Washington)
- Milk dispensers in most districts are not being used because of COVID, but schools have expressed interest in using them again
 - Working with the Dairy Council to check on milk production as many dairies discontinued producing the bags of milk
 - Washougal High School received a free milk dispenser thanks to a Port Angeles school who no longer needed theirs
- School food waste service
 - Camas School District canceled food waste service for the whole district
 - Vancouver Public Schools only has a couple schools participating as is the case with many others
 - Washougal School District continues to shine and is continuing their food waste program and use of durable dishware
- Hoping to schedule some outdoor lessons with Hockinson Heights
- Most schools are not allowing volunteers at this time
 - Volunteers need to have their vaccinations when allowed back in schools

Master Composter Recycler

- MCR Fall 2021 Webinars - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/current-offerings>
 - 10/6 Curbside 101 – 10 attendees
 - 10/13 Backyard Composting – 41 attendees
 - 10/20 Worm Bin Composting – 57 attendees
 - 10/27 Lasagna Garden Composting
 - 11/3 Green Cleaning
 - 11/10 Recycling Done Right
 - 11/17 Prevent Food Waste in the First Place
- 93 community worm bins distributed/requested since Jan 1, 2021 (each bin diverts 180 pounds of food waste per year). 68 community worm bins & 25 MCR class of 2021 divert 16,740 pounds (8 tons) annually
 - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form>

- 42 community backyard compost bins distributed since Jan 1, 2021 (each bin diverts 380 pounds of organics). 42 bins divert 15,960 pounds (8 tons) annually
 - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/buyacomposter>
- 37 have registered for the 2022 MCR annual training
 - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/become-an-mcr/become-a-master-composter-recycler>